



# TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
13 MARCH 2014 VOL. XIX, NO. 3

## *Microbe Thespians Rule the Jungal!*

### *The Jungalbook*

By Harrison Kidd

This year, the junior school had a great performance of *The Jungalbook*, which was based on the book by Rudyard Kipling. Everyone had a wonderful time, from the playground-like set to the atmosphere in general. We had many talented actors this year, and everyone had fun doing it. As a kind of summary of the play, Mowgli the Man cub (Ben Wood) thinks his life is great, playing with Perchy the monkey (Julian Habermann) and doing whatever he wants, until he finds out that Sherakhan the tiger (me, Harrison Kidd), is hunting him because of an old grudge. Mowgli is put in the custody of the wolves, led by a protective leader, Akela (Isaac Sedek), who takes care of him with some assistance from Baloo the bear (Andrew Falls) and Bagheera the panther (JP Cooper). Eventually though, the peace is disrupted when the river (Sam Funk and Kanayo Offodile) dries up, and Sherakhan convinces the Hyena (Gray

Williams) and the two wolves in Akela's wolf pack, Grab and Gray (Andrew Sutphin and Jack Capizzi) to turn against Akela and set a trap over a buffalo (Kanayo Offodile) that eventually gets him killed by Sherakhan. Mowgli eventually decides to go to the man village, where he sees the humans (Carson Reisinger, Kanayo Offodile, and Sam Funk), using Haithi the elephant (Lucas Pao) as a slave. He eventually frees the elephant, and in the process, discovers rope. Even though the use of rope could get Mowgli kicked out of the Jungal, it is eventually Sherakhan's downfall, along with the return of the river signaled by Kaa the snake (Henry Rhodes).

It was a great play overall, but it would have been horrible without the tech crew. The crew consisted of Will Trotman and Will Gordon as stage managers, Chris Hawkins and William Bradford as floor managers, William Gilliland and Billy Thomas on lights, and Harrison Avery and



*Curtain call!*

Rashad Townsend on sound.

I hope everyone who saw the play enjoyed it as much as the cast did. Special thanks to Mrs. Kingsbury for the costumes, Dr. Seay and Mr. Berry for directing, and Mrs. Roberts for taking pictures.

### IN THIS ISSUE

ON THE HILL.....	1 - 9
FEATURES.....	10 -16
DR. LOVE.....	8
SERIALIZATION....	12-13
ENTERTAINMENT	17-23
COMICS.....	11, 13
SPORTS.....	24 -35
BIG RED SPORTS	36-39
THE BACK PAGE.....	40

# *The Junglebook*



*Andrew Falls as Baloo the bear*



*J.P. Cooper as Bagheera the panther  
confronts Sherakahn (Harrison Kidd)*



*Andrew Sutphin as Grab, a wolf*



*Jack Capizzi as Grey, a wolf*



*Left to right - Ben Wood as Mowgli, the human boy and  
Isaac Sedek as Akeba, leader of the wolf pack*



*Ben Wood (Mowgli) with  
Julian Habermann as Perchy,  
the monkey*



# *The Junglebook*



*Harrison Kidd as Sherakhan the tiger*



*Henry Rhodes as Kaa, the python*



*Carson Reisinger as  
Chie, the vulture*



*The wonderful cast and crew of The Junglebook*

# ON THE HILL CONGRATULATIONS!

## Two-Time Winner, Mac Roberts, Advances to State in Geography Bee!



*Mac Roberts*

Mac Roberts won the Geography Bee for the second year. He is only the second two-time winner in the past twenty years.

By correctly answering that the Potomac River empties into the Chesapeake Bay and that the Uyghur people live in China, Mac Roberts secured his second consecutive victory in the school level Geography Bee. Additionally, Yosef Howard finished runner-up for the second consecutive year. Mac is one of only two two-time winners in MBA's Geography Bee, joining recent graduate Tom "Tree" Kaiser. Mac will advance to

the State Bee on April 4 with a chance to earn a trip to Washington, DC, and lucrative college scholarship prizes. Each year the National Geographic Society sponsors the National Geographic Bee in which students in grades four through eight compete for a grand prize of fifty thousand dollars towards college tuition. School winners take a written test to qualify for the State Bee, and the state winners earn a trip to Washington, DC for the national competition. Having missed out on the state finals by just one question last year, Mac is poised to do well in the State Bee on April 4.

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## Ben Coulthard Captures Spelling Bee Title!



*Mr. Matt Kimball and Ben Coulthard*



MBA hosted its Junior School Spelling Bee early in the second semester.

Winners Ben Coulthard (first) and Paul Lee (second) moved on to compete at the Davidson County Bee in February. Though Paul Lee ended up missing his first round word (as did nearly half of the competitors), Ben finished ninth out of a field of fifty-four. Congratulations to both of our winners!



# ON THE HILL

## MathCounts Chapter Competition

By Mike Miccioli

On Saturday, February 1, the eight-time MathCounts state champion MBA Big Red Mathletes competed in the Nashville Chapter MathCounts competition at the Adventure Science Center. Countless hours of practice during lunch and Saturday mornings with the relentless Coach Qian paid off that weekend. After a difficult test, MBA Mathletes were a little nervous about their performances; however, when the results were announced, the test proved to have been difficult for everyone. As to be expected, the MBA team, consisting of Ray Lee, Lucas Pao, Mike Miccioli, and Brian Lu, placed first in the chapter, also dominating individually. A little over one-hundred people competed in the competition, and all nine of MBA's



1st place winners - Ray Lee, Lucas Pao, Brian Lu, Mike Miccioli, and Mrs. Qian competitors placed in the top twenty-five percent individually. Ray Lee placed first, blowing everyone out of the water with a score of 37. Nikhil Peterson earned second with a solid score of 30. Next, Lucas Pao placed third, closely behind with a score of 29. Julian Habermann was sixth and Mike Miccioli seventh, with scores of 28 and 27, respectively. Sam DeCoster placed twelfth, with a score of 26. Zach Garfinkel placed seventeenth, Brian Lu placed nineteenth, and Alex Bulgarino placed twenty-second with scores of 25, 24, and 23, respectively.

MBA will be sending six people to the state competition,

tying their personal record. MBA looks forward to the upcoming state MathCounts competition on March 22, but they will face a tough challenge trying for a third straight state championship; Memphis University School has a returning Mathlete who placed second individually in the state last year and second in the Countdown Round two years ago.

### Sample MathCounts Problems

Automobile license plates for a state consist of four letters followed by a dash and two single digits. How many different license plate combinations are possible if exactly one letter is repeated exactly once, but digits cannot be repeated?

Joseph, Pedro, Samuel and David leave their backpacks by the classroom door. When the fire alarm rings they rush to leave, each randomly grabbing a backpack on the way out. What is the probability that each boy takes a backpack that is not his own? Express your answer a common fraction.



*The 2014 Science Olympiad Team*

# ON THE HILL

## Science Olympiad Advances to State!

By Mike Miccioli

On March 1, MBA competed in the annual Science Olympiad Regional competition at MTSU. MBA's students got up bright and early on a Saturday to depart from MBA at 5:45 a.m. After a lengthy bus ride, the students arrived at the university. At first, students struggled to navigate their way around the unfamiliar campus; however, with the help of their maps, most students were adjusted to the buildings by the end of the day. Lunch was an improvement from last year's box lunches; students were allowed to eat at various food courts across campus, including places such as Dunkin Donuts,



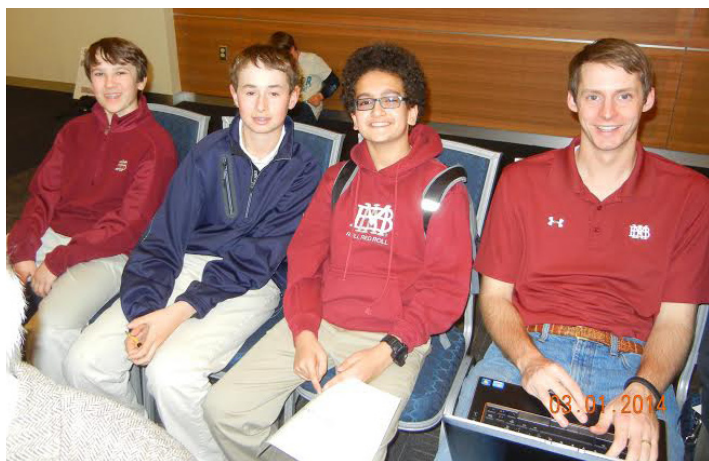
*The State-bound Science Olympiad Team*

Panda Express, Starbucks, etc.

MBA's junior school team did well, placing third in the Region and earning a spot in the State competition on April 12. Medals included first place in Anatomy (Julian Habermann and Aditya Priyadarshi), first place in Heredity (Colin Snell and Tony Huang), first place in Metric Mastery (Mike Miccioli and Will Grana), first place in Rocks and Minerals (Mike Miccioli and Tobias Houghton), second place Road Scholar (William Stewart and Tony Huang), second place in Simple Machines (Lucas

Habermann and Lucas Pao), fourth place in Disease Detectives (Tony Huang and William Stewart), fourth place in Meteorology (Colin Snell and William Stewart), fifth place in Solar System (William Stewart and Mike Miccioli), fifth place in Water Quality (Julian Habermann and Alex Saavedra), and sixth place in Robo-cross (Alex Saavedra and Patrick Butner). While we might lose a couple eighth-graders to the Atlanta trip, which is the same time as the State competition, we will gain several seventh-graders and ninth-graders whom we lost for the Regional competition because of a debate tournament. We now know a little more what our event competitions are like and know what to study for the most.

The junior school Science Olympiad team has high hopes for the State competition. As expected, the high school team placed first in the Region and will be going to the State competition as four-time reigning State champions and heavy favorites.



Pao and Aditya Priyadarshi), second place in Dynamic Planet (Tobias Houghton and Lucas Pao), third place in Experimental Design (Julian Habermann and Colin Snell), third place in Shock Value (Julian



# ON THE HILL

***Congratulations on a Job Well Done!***



## Junior Honor Society Inductees

Jackson Abbey  
Ty Alley  
Ford Brewer  
Alex Bulgarino  
Matthew Bulow  
Jack Capizzi  
Thomas Carr  
Daniel Cowan  
Jack Crawford  
Ben Elasy  
Miller Freeman  
Michael Garcia

Joseph Hatcher  
Chris Hawkins  
Jack Hawkins  
Tobias Houghton  
Ben Jablonski  
Centre King  
Daniel Lee  
Brian Lu  
Haynes Lynch  
Jackson McFadden  
James McKnight  
Jake McSween

Mike Miccioli  
Fenner Pollock  
Alex Renkis  
Blake Robinson  
Manny Rogers  
Jamison Russ  
Brady Slinger  
Zach Smith  
Jack Sullivan  
Palmer Thombs  
Ben Wassinger  
Will Weaver  
Isaac Wills

# SCENES FROM

## Dr. Love Sows Some Seeds of Advice After Attending S.T.E.M. Day

By Chris Hawkins

A few weeks ago the eighth grade class at MBA went to an organic farm with the eighth grade class of Harpeth Hall. While at the organic farm, we learned all about the way a farm works and how each part of the soil contributes to the making of a good plant. We also learned how a compost pile can help the soil be fertile and rich in nutrients. Some of us got to go to a station that had chickens in it. While there we learned about how some chickens were given antibiotics which would keep the chicken alive longer, but it was not good for the organic farm. In the greenhouse, we learned about how worm feces can help fertilize the soil and make it rich in nutrients. Also, most of us got to try some salsa that was made with the third hottest pepper in the world. Although all of the organic works in the farm that we learned about were interesting, I, Dr. Love, am not here to talk about soil and farms. Today, I am here to talk about the things we eighth graders could improve when interacting with girls. Guys, girls are not the scariest thing in the world. You can talk to them without being nervous or scared. Just introduce yourself to the girl if you have not met before, and ask her her name. If the conversation does not work out, then try again with another girl. I know there was not a lot



*Chris Hawkins as Dr. Love*

of down time at the farm when we were going to different stations, but there was time at lunch when you could have talked to a girl. Instead of talking to girls, I saw most of you just talking with your guy friends. Try to include the girl in the conversation that you are having with your friend so she feels comfortable and welcome. If you are nervous, just take a chance and try to talk to a girl; she could become a friend of yours.



*Manny's got milk!*





# S.T.E.M. DAY



*Zach Smith, William Kinard, Ben Coulthard, Trace Fontana,  
Miller Freeman, Thomas Carr, and Mike Miccioli*



*William Gilliland*



*Mike Miccioli and his new friend*



*Haynes Lynch, Ford Ray, Ford Brewer, Patrick Dennis,  
and Will Trotman try out the hot pepper sauces.*



*Josh Morin and J.P. Cooper plant  
the next crop of lettuce.*



# FEATURES

## The Record-Breaking Winter of 2013-14

By Mac Roberts



This winter has been one of the most brutal in U.S. history. The snow totals have been massive, and the #polarvortex created bitter, and also quite deadly, temperatures in the central, eastern, and southern portions of the country. The Great Lakes neared record ice cover in recorded history during the cold plunge. The most unusual fact about this cold wave is that it brought the bitter cold so far South. The upper Midwest is used to extreme cold, but not cities like Nashville and Atlanta. This fact is what made the event so deadly. Twenty-one deaths were attributed to the polar vortex according to Fox News. This winter has been compared to events like the brutal winter of 1978, when, according to CBC Hamilton, the Great Lakes had 94% ice coverage. The polar vortex, however, is not the only big story of this winter.

Many of you may be wondering what the polar vortex is. It is a mass of circulating frigid air over the North Pole. In the winter, it is at its strongest. This strength allows it to keep the polar jet stream flowing from east to west. This factor, in turn, keeps the frigid cold in the Arctic. However, what made the polar vortex particularly famous this winter is the fact that it actually weakened. This weakening allowed for the bitter cold air to no longer be contained in the arctic. It allowed it to escape south. Thanks to the Sunday, Feb. 2 issue of *USA Today* for this description. This event brought extreme, mind-blowing temperatures into the eastern half of the U.S. Most cities didn't actually set a

record low for the day, though, because it was much warmer at midnight than it was at noon. Here are some non-record setting, but remarkably low, temperatures for several American cities on the 6th of January. Atlanta dropped to 6 degrees Fahrenheit, Birmingham to 7, Green Bay to -21, and

Minneapolis to -23 according to the same *USA Today* article. Here in Nashville, there was an afternoon high on January 6 of a jaw-dropping 7 degrees according to NashvilleSevereWeather.com and a low that night of 0 degrees according to my thermometer. These temperatures were the coldest in twenty years for the country, but for some, it was the coldest temperature for that date (January 6) in history! However, the extreme cold was not the only big story.

Snow was also a major problem during this winter. Because of the constant set pattern of the jet stream this winter, the weather systems continue to follow the same basic path. This path consists of air masses coming in from the Pacific Ocean and traveling right over the eastern half of the United States. This pattern coupled with extreme cold made for astronomical snow totals. According to the earlier cited *USA Today* article, Toledo, Ohio, received 39.7 inches of snow in the month of January alone. This broke the record snowiest month ever there by almost 9 inches! Other cities are close to breaking the record for snowiest WINTER ever! According to mlive.com, Detroit is currently at its 3rd snowiest season ever. Also according to mlive.com, a small town in Michigan called Maple City has shattered its snowiest winter record by almost 4 inches! However, these places are used to snow. The crazy fact about the snow this winter is that it reached so far south. Some places on the Florida Gulf Coast saw a few flakes! There was also

heavy accumulation in south Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Atlanta received two major snow and ice storms within a few weeks of each other! So, clearly, this winter is one to go down in the record books.

Many Americans would argue that this winter has been a bit chilly, but, in fact, it was the fourth warmest winter on record for the northern hemisphere according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This winter has been amongst the warmest in Alaska's history. According to ThinkProgress.com, the town of Port Alsworth, Alaska, tied a record January high for the state with a high temperature of 62 degrees Fahrenheit on January 27. The site also said that temperatures in some places were 40 degrees above average. Currently, there is warm weather in Alaska that has almost never been seen in its history. This reason is why one could argue that if you wanted to escape the cold in Georgia, you could go to Alaska. It is quite incredible how the weather patterns can "swap" in this manner.

In the Lower 48, this season has been a brutal, record-breaking winter. Snow was spotted as far south as the Gulf Coast, and snow records were broken in the upper Midwest (even though Nashville seems to have a "snow dome" preventing any and all snowfall). Daily high temperatures ranged from the single digits in Middle Tennessee to possibly in the twenties below zero in parts of Minnesota. Lows ranged from single digits below zero in Middle Tennessee to fifties below in the north of the country. Snow crippled cities across the South while Alaska experienced one of its warmest winters on record. This winter definitely fits the description "winter of extremes."





# FEATURES

## RIP *Flappy Bird*: The Most Addicting Game

By Harrison Kidd

*Flappy Bird* is possibly the most addicting game of all time. Everyone has it, and if you do not have it, you've at least heard of it from a friend. As well as being extremely addicting, it is also probably the simplest game around. It has very simple graphics and very simple mechanics. You just try to get a strange little bird through pipes by tapping the touchscreen to flap your wings. However, the game ends the moment you touch anything. The simple game mechanics are one of the reasons the person who created *Flappy Bird*, Ha Dong Nguyen, took the game down. It only took him one night to make the game itself, and Nguyen just didn't think that the game was his best work. But what about all of the loving fans of *Flappy Bird*, you may ask. Another reason Nguyen took the game down was because of his "loyal fans" threatening him with death on his Twitter page and insulting his work. Some even claimed that Nintendo was part of the reason *Flappy Bird* got shut down, since the pipes do bear an eerie resemblance to several of the *Super Mario Bros.* games.

I don't know exact numbers, but many phones have been broken over the game, and I have even heard a



rumor of someone in Detroit killing his brother because he got a higher score than he did. No one really knows what drove Nguyen over the line, because it was estimated that by the last days he was making almost \$50,000 dollars a day from ads. But, on February 8th, for whatever reason, *Flappy Bird* was taken off the App Store. Many were devastated, and some took great measures like selling iPads and iPhones on eBay for \$500 dollars, just because it still had *Flappy Bird* on it.

The shutdown of *Flappy Bird* was featured on many different famous websites, including CNN. The shutdown was not as people thought for three reasons. The

first is, if you never deleted the app in the first place (many did out of frustration) you still have it! The second reason is that the shutdown itself sparked many parodies, like *Flappy Space Program*, or just downright copies, like *Splashy Fish*, that people can also play if they deleted the original. The third and final reason is that Nguyen still has other apps on the App Store that are different games, but still just as addicting! The two games, *Shuriken Block* and *Juggling*, are both very high on the App Store. All of the parodies and copies will satisfy your hunger for *Flappy Bird*, but everyone will miss the real thing.

We will all miss you. RIP *Flappy Bird*.



# The Story Continues . . .

## “The Swede Files: Part 2”

By Anonymous

“I am the owner of this fine property” The man that surprised Eric said in a thick accent, after explaining other boring details like his name (Count Strakjavik) and other things I will not bore the reader to go into, mainly because Eric paid absolutely no attention to any of that. “We are delighted you can stay with us, and all of the other family members. It should be very....” he paused for almost a minute, and Eric almost interjected his opinion. “EXCITING. yes! that’s the word! EXCITING!”

Eric looked the strange man over. Eric thought about bolting right there, just running away, sprinting as far as his little stubby legs could take him. But, for some strange reason, he didn’t. I don’t know whether it was because the scare from earlier left his pants wet, and he needed a place to change, or maybe it was because he was curious to see what was in the house. But, after a moment of silence, Eric said some of the most intelligent words he would say on this page: “Do yer have a toilet room, Misser Starcodave?”

“Of course we do!” COUNT STRAKJAVIK laughed. as Eric made his way clumsily up the hill, the Count said some ugly words that would put this story on the banned book list if I repeated them. In Swedish of course, so that little Eric Troll would not understand him.

Eric made his way into the cabin on the hill. There he found a tall, handsome man in a tux with a red face, and large yellow eyes, glaring down

at him. “Uh, hey, butler dude. Do you know where the toilet are? I kinda need some new pants er somethin’.”

The man just looked at him, outrage building and building, until he exploded.

“I AM ROYALTY! HOW DARE YOU THINK I AM A BUTLER, YOU INSIGNIFICANT, MOONSHINE DRUNK, FAT LITTLE DWARF! I COULD DESTROY YOU IN AN INSTANT! I AM THE KING OF THE UNDERWORLD, THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS, THE RULER OF DEMONS, THE-“

“Yeah, yeah, I jus wanna kner where the toilet are, misser.”

Be’ezlebug pointed a shaking finger to the hallway where the bathroom was. Eric grumbled as he pushed his way past the demon, not paying attention as he grew redder and redder, and as large horns poked out of his head. As he was going to the restroom, he also didn’t notice the screams of Costcovo and the Count, and the other family members he hadn’t even met yet, as they were taken to the depths of the underworld by the Prince of Darkness himself. As we hear the mute cries of the Swedish family, and wait for Eric to finish his little intermission, let us ask some of the readers how they like it. First, we will ask little Tommy. How do you like the story little boy?

“Well, It’s really bad, it gave me a stomach ache and my brother, Billy, it sent him to the ER. It’s way too-” OOF! that’s enough out of you, Tommy. I’m sure he secretly loves it. Anyway, back to the story. Ahem.

So, Eric washed and dried his hands, but before he left the restroom, the walls all fell down, revealing that all of the house is completely gone, except for the restroom he was currently in. Around the walls, phrases like “Satan was here” and tons of “666” were

everywhere. “I need some dinner.” Eric thought.

“MISSER STARCODAVE! BUTLER PERSSON! I WERD LIKE SOME TEXAS TOAST, PLEASE!” Silence. They muss juss be on their coffee break, Eric thought. So, Eric waited. And waited. AND WAITED. And after over an hour, he was still waiting. So, I took action, and got the hobo who was supposed to be at the fire that Eric was SUPPOSED to find over an hour ago, directly to Eric.

Eric felt a tap on his back. He turned around and saw a filthy and rather lonely-looking man with a strange case and a large backpack.

“Oh, God!” Eric exclaimed. He looked up at me. “Did he just touch me? Did that thing juss touch me?” ERIC, SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO THIS MAN. Anyway, let’s just act like nothing happened and move on.

“Hello. I am Fred. But you can call me Uncle Fredrickson,” the gruff man said.

“Well, my name is Eric. Eric asked, “Whatcha want, Fred?”

“Well, sir, you looked lonely just standing there looking at that old building, and I wanted to know if you would like some accompaniment.”

“Like, a friend?” Eric’s heart immediately softened. Eric had never had a friend, mainly because of his rudeness.

“Yes. Like a friend. Join me by the campfire so we can have some dinner.”

A real friend? Eric thought. This dude is purty nasty, but he seems to be purty nice, too.

Back at Uncle Fredrickson’s campfire, Eric was explaining his boring old life back at Buringingtonsville.

“All we evar do is work.” Eric

*Continued on page 13*



# The Story Continues . . .

*Continued from page 12*

explained “Ya know, I woulda wanted to be a zookeeper, but truth be told, I ended up bein’ a taco vendor. Guess that’s juss how the world works, Mr. Fred, ain’t it?”

“Yes sir, sadly enough, that is how it works,” Fred said. “I wanted to be a lawyer, and so I went to a school in England called Oxford. You probably don’t know it.”

Eric shook his head.

“Didn’t think so. Anyway, after two whole years in Oxford, my mother became very sick, and I had to go to her and take care of the poor old woman. She started to get better, and after a couple of months, I thought I would get to go back to Oxford. That is when the incident happened.” He said “incident” with an icy cold voice that chilled Eric to the bone.

“A man in a tux with a red face and big yellow eyes came to our house one day, saying he wanted to sell us some real estate. I politely declined, and that is when the threats started flying from the man. I was resilient, though, and finally, he said “Since you won’t buy my real estate, you will end up homeless yourself” and poof. Just like that, our house was gone, and Momma and I were out in the forest, all by ourselves, without anything to help us.”

“A-a-and what happened to yer mommy?” Eric asked shakily.

“She got sicker and sicker. She, she...” Tears were running down Uncle Fred’s face. “She could have been saved with the proper medicine, but since that thing left us out in the woods with nothing, she passed on.”

“I’m so sorry to hear that, Fred.” And this was the first time in Eric’s measly life, when he was actually sorry.

“Ever since my mother passed, I have been researching what exactly the beast was, and how to stop it. I found out the creature, Be’ezlebug, or the Devil, cannot directly take lives, but instead he can cause events, like in my case, putting us in the middle of nowhere, in order to indirectly kill them. After several days of research, when my hopes looked dim, a strange bearded man came to me. He said: “I know you’ve been looking for the Prince of Darkness, and you want to kill him. So do I, but I am too old. You cannot fight him alone, though. The Chosen One must be present.”

“The Chosen One?” I asked. “Who on earth is that?” Then, he showed me a picture. And you know who that picture was of, Eric?”

“Chuck Norris?” Eric guessed.

“No, Eric, that picture is of you. You are the chosen one! The man then gave me this.” He held up the fiddle case from earlier “and said that when the time was right, the case would glow, showing your location. And now, we can defeat Satan!”

Eric was confused, and dazed, and nauseated. Finally, after staring in silence at the campfire, he violently puked on his shoes. “So we ain’t rally friends?” A very pale Eric asked, after wiping his mouth with his sleeve.

“Of course we are, Eric!” Fred said, placing his arm around Eric,

careful to avoid his soiled sleeve.

“We’re best friends! You can stop the demon with your magical powers?”

“Magical powers?” Eric asked.

“Yes! Magical powers! Don’t you remember? That explosion that took down the whole house? You, and the room you were in, were completely protected! You are like a giant shield! With my genius intellect, the fiddle, and your... uh.... shieldiness, we can stop Satan!”

“Wait, so, what about my completely distant family that I ain’t even met?” Eric asked, actually concerned.

“Well, when the Devil is finally vanquished, since he is the head of the underworld, Death, his partner in crime, won’t even exist!”

“Like two stones with one bird?”

“Sure, Eric, Sure.”

“So does that mean you can get yer mom back?”

“Yes.” Fred said, realization dawning on him. “IT DOES! MOMMY, WE ARE COMING FOR YOU!”

Will Fred find his mommy? Will Eric finally get his Texas toast? Find out next time on: “The Swede Files.”



**The Top of the Hill is looking for writers for the upcoming May 27th edition. The staff meets every Tuesday during break in Mrs. Roberts’ room (M21). All are welcome!**

# FEATURES

## More Survival Tips

By Bradford Holladay



Although different school breaks have come and gone, many people are still traveling before the hustle and bustle of summer approaches. In this issue, with the help of the Red Cross and National Geographic, you will learn how to survive in unexpected situations while traveling. There are many possible survival scenarios, and you cannot be prepared for absolutely everything, but learning how to survive a wild sandstorm, defend against an angry shark, and survive deadly riptides will help you in some of the most unexpected situations.

1.) Surviving a Sandstorm: A sandstorm is a brutal, unexpected way to turn a relaxing trip into a battle against suffocation. There are many different ways to survive against a sandstorm, but they fall into a category of two main methods. Depending on whether you are on foot or in a vehicle, your survival techniques may vary. If you are on foot and you see an approaching storm, immediately take any article of clothing available, preferably a bandana, and cover up your mouth and nose. If you have any water left from your trip, apply some to add moisture to the article covering your face. Quickly move to high ground and seek refuge behind any large rocks, trees, or other barricades until the storm passes. No matter what the circumstance, it is vital to protect your eyes during any and all sandstorms. If you have a vehicle of some sort and you notice a storm moving rapidly in your direction, try to outdrive the storm. These sandstorms can be very fast, but the farther away you can get from them the better. Once you get hit by the storm, stay put and do not move. Close all vents and windows and wait until it passes. In order to prevent sandstorm related accidents in the future, do research on the area you are traveling to and bring blankets, extra water, and goggles.

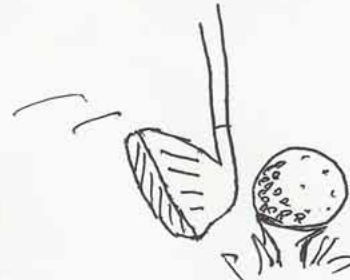
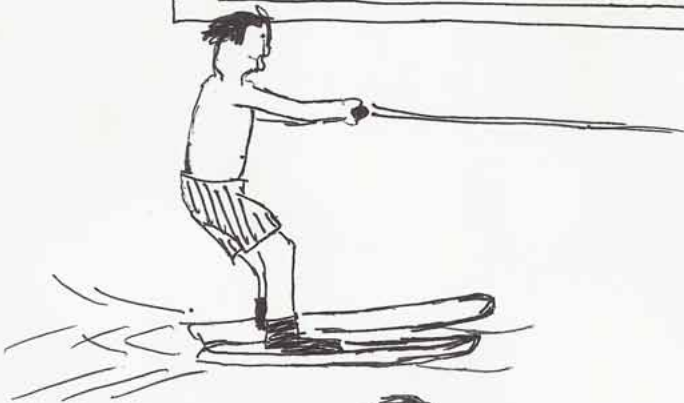
2.) Surviving a Shark Attack: Although they are most likely not going to be flying through the air in a tornado like Hollywood sometimes claims, sharks can still cause serious damage to people or property if they feel threatened. Shark attacks are incredibly rare, but like everything else, there is always a slight possibility of the worst happening to the most innocent, unsuspecting people. If you see a shark while swimming in the ocean, stay still and calm. Do not take your eyes off the shark, and if with a friend, put your backs together and very slowly make your way back to shore or to a neighboring boat. It is vital that you make no sudden movements which might cause a shark to attack out of fear. If the shark does become aggressive, you can fight back. Yell for help and hit the shark in the face or gills while making your way quickly but smoothly back to shore. Warn other swimmers of the possible threat, and use any inanimate object like a rock, shell, or camera to ward off the shark. If you stay calm and avoid making sudden movements, then you should remain unharmed.

3.) Surviving a Riptide: A riptide, or rip current, is a long, narrow body of water that can pull people or objects out into the ocean. They can occur almost anywhere in the shallow ocean and can cause serious injury or death to anyone caught inside them. Being in a riptide is very scary, as you have no control of where you are going as you watch the shore get farther and farther away from you. Even though it is frightening, it is relatively easy to escape if you know how. Do not panic, but remain calm and realize that riptides can only pull you out, and not under the water. Try to regain a foothold in the sand and swim parallel to the shore until you feel the tension released and control received. Float on your back until you feel rested, and then swim back to shore. If you follow these instructions, you should return to shore completely fine.



# FEATURES

## SPRING BREAK



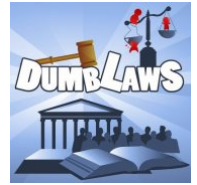
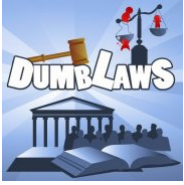
WHAT I PLAN TO DO ↗



WHAT I ACTUALLY DO ↗

# FEATURES

## Real Laws That are Really Dumb!



By John Spurgeon

Our country is filled with weird and seemingly pointless laws which seem just to exist for our amusement. Here is a list of my favorite weird laws:

In Saratoga, Florida, it is illegal to wear a swimsuit and sing at the same time.

In Florida it is illegal for a man to wear a strapless dress.

In Oklahoma you can be arrested for making weird faces at a dog.

In California it is illegal for a driverless car to go over 60 MPH.

In New York you receive the death penalty if you jump off a building.

In Alabama it is illegal to wear a mustache in church as to make people laugh.

In American Samoa it is illegal to forget your wife's birthday.

In California you cannot set a mouse trap without a hunting license.

In Wilbur, Washington, it is illegal to ride an ugly horse.

In Danville, Pennsylvania, fire hydrants have to be checked one hour before any fire.

In Florida an elephant tied to a parking meter must pay the regular fee.

In Florida it is illegal to fart in public after 6pm on Thursdays.

In Pennsylvania it is illegal to tie a dollar bill to a string and pull it away when someone tries to pick it up.

In Blythe, California you must own at least two cows before being allowed to wear cowboy boots.

In Tennessee the only game allowed to be shot from a moving vehicle is a whale.

In Tennessee hollow logs are not allowed to be sold.

In China (I know it is not the US, but I had to use it.) you are only allowed to go to college if you are intelligent.

In Baltimore it is illegal to take a lion to the movies.

Source: [www.dumblaws.com](http://www.dumblaws.com)

*April 17, 2014*

*is*

*MBA's 2014*

*Grandparents' Day!*





# ENTERTAINMENT

## Xbox One vs. PS4

By Jack Capizzi

As most of you know, in the spring of 2013, Microsoft and Sony told us that they were making new game consoles known as the “Next Gen” consoles to take over the Xbox 360 and the PS3. Microsoft then released the Xbox One on November 28th, the new and VASTLY improved edition to the Xbox Series. The Xbox One has completely changed to fit the layout of the new Microsoft products, meaning that it has taken on a more versatile home screen that truly can mold to your personality with apps like NFL.com that can let you watch games, check your fantasy team, and Skype with your friends at the same time. I have tried this feature, and it is very cool. Then we get to the important side of this system, the gaming. A new revamped addition to the Xbox One is the “Kinect.” This feature is probably one of the main points being criticized by many (and



me at first as well) because of how bulky it is and how it isn't seen as necessary, but it really proves to be vital because of how (even though its kind of creepy) it will recognize you when you walk in a room or say two words. It really is amazing with everything it does. It's kind of like “Siri” times ten, without the annoying commentary. Now one major downfall to the Xbox One, and in my view the largest downfall, is that you aren't able to play games from your old Xbox system on the new console. I am not entirely sure, but I believe this issue is due to addition of a different setup and a Blu-Ray player. Although every now and then it stinks not to be able to use old games, you can still get totally absorbed in the new games like *Fifa 14*, or *Forza 5*, which is by far one of the most stunningly realistic and entertaining games I have ever played. It is awesome. So, I will give the Xbox One a 5 for sparking a truly magnificent “Next Generation” and a 4 for overall performance, only lacking one point for being unable to play old games, giving it a total score of 9 out of 10.

The PS4 has also turned heads by being featured on *Late Night* and

on many celebrities/athletes Twitter pages. One thing that you should know is that the PS4 is designed mainly as a console suitable for the average player, while the Xbox One is for the average player or the hardcore basement-dwelling gamer. This difference definitely shows but kind of in a good way, because the PS4 looks way better than the Xbox One but lacks a little bit in overall upgrades. The PS4 still drives it home with the free “PlayStation Plus” (the PlayStation version of “Xbox Live”) and the ability to play new games. A game that has recently come out that is REALLY irritating



me is *MLB14 The Show*. This game irritates me because of how freaking good it looks, and because I can't use it on the Xbox One due to the game being developed by Sony and is only playable on the Sony PS4. I will give the PS4 a 4 for its updates and a 5 for its continuation of great additions to the gaming experience, finishing up the PS4 with a score of 9. This score ties it with the Xbox One, showing that whichever you choose, they both provide beautiful gaming experiences that are like no other.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## The 86th Academy Awards: Should You Care?

By Jack Capizzi (written during the show)

This year the 86th Academy Awards were hosted by Ellen DeGeneres. She had hosted one previous Oscars program and was back again with a pretty good but awkwardly random show for all the people watching. The awards I will be reviewing are "Best Picture," "Best Actor," "Best Actress," "Best Supporting Actor," and "Best Supporting Actress." Everyone should know that for "Best Picture" it has pretty much been a contest between *Gravity* and *Dallas Buyers Club*, and "Best Actor" has been completely dominated by predictions of Matthew



McConaughey taking home the award. While these are the predicted winners, you never know what will happen.

**Best Supporting Actor:** The Oscar went to Jared Leto for his performance in an inspiring role in *Dallas Buyers Club* as a transgender suffering from the AIDS virus who adds to the emotional ride that made the movie so widely credited.

**Best Supporting Actress:** This Oscar went to Lupita Nyong'o for her performance in *12 Years a Slave*. Her performance has been praised by many for the way she portrayed the conditions slaves were under during that time period.

**Best Actor:** The Oscar for best actor went to Matthew McConaughey for his role as Ron Woodroof in *Dallas Buyers Club*. His acting was good, but I have to say that some of his praise comes

from the challenging role he portrayed as a man with AIDS who brings illegal medicine into America.

**Best Actress:** The award for best Actress went to Cate Blanchett for her role in *Blue Jasmine* as a wealthy woman who has to move in with her sister after her husband loses all of her money. This film is the one that I know probably know the least about.

**Best Picture:** And the winner for the 86th Academy Award for "Best Picture" goes to... *12 Years a Slave*. I really enjoyed seeing this film win because to me, this film with its look at slavery seemed to have more emotional drama and depth than *Gravity* or *Dallas Buyers Club*. I believed it to be a truly award-winning film.

I thought this year's awards were just okay, but only so because of the small number of films we kids were able to see. And even though many people aren't able to see lots of the nominated movies and or just don't want to, I think that these awards are very important because they are a symbol of culture that I think we all need to be aware of.



L - R : Best Actor, Matthew McConaughey, Best Actress, Cate Blanchett, Best Supporting Actress, Lupita Nyong'o, and Best Supporting Actor, Jared Leto



# ENTERTAINMENT

## *Anchorman 2*

By Jack Capizzi

Whenever someone attempts to make a sequel to a comedy, they will undoubtedly be under a lot of pressure. One of these reasons is that most comedy sequels crash and burn, and I mean CRASH AND BURN. BUT, in this mass of boring and annoying movies, there have been some glowing sequels including *Austin Powers*, and newer ones like *The Hangover*, *Grown Ups*, and now *Anchorman 2*. Honestly, when I went into the theater for the first time, I was scared that what had happened for so many movies that have shown such promise would happen to one of Will Ferrell's staple movies. But all of these fears passed about thirty minutes into movie, when I had already seen Ron Burgundy wrestling a shark and talking to his son, Walter, about voodoo. This movie continued to surpass what critics have been saying due to a star-studded group of Will Ferrell (Ron), Steve Carell (Brick), Paul Rudd (Brian Fantana), and David Koechner (Champ). These actors have shown once again how great a movie with all of these stars can be presented. I think that they thought that there was almost no way they could replicate the first movie, so they kind of just said whatever they wanted. This behavior did make the movie really random but also very funny. My favorite scene was when, again, the news crew got in



a fight with the BBC, MTV, ESPN, The History Channel, and even the Channel 6 team from San Diego. This scene included some of the many cameos in the movie: Will Smith, Kanye West, Drake, Liam Neeson, Kirsten Dunst, Sacha Baron Cohen, Vince Vaughn, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Marion Cotillard, Jim Carrey, and John C. Reilly as The

Ghost of Stonewall Jackson (yep, The Ghost of Stonewall Jackson).

This movie was great and kept me interested the whole time, which is why I'm going to give it a 9/10. It was awesome, and I would recommend it to anyone.

### GET READY TO PERFORM!

#### April is National Poetry Month and Time for the Annual Junior School Poetry Competition

Entry level performance competitions begin in each English class in April with winners from each class moving on to the main competition in Massey Commons on Tuesday, April 15th. The seventh-grade winner will face the eighth-grade winner on Tuesday, April 23rd in the Dead Poets Society Room.

Prizes are awarded to each grade level winner.  
Contact your English teacher or Mrs. Roberts for more information.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## The Lego Movie Review

By Will Weaver



the movie had ended, I was glad I had gone to see it.

*The Lego Movie*, starring Will Ferrell and the voices of Will Arnett, Morgan Freeman, and Liam Neeson, surprised audiences everywhere with a strong plot, meaningful message, and humor for all ages. I will admit that I was skeptical at first, but by the time

The story is about Emmett (Chris Pratt), a young Lego man with no real special abilities or talents, who turns out to be the chosen one of the prophecy predicting the downfall of Lord Business (Will Ferrell). Lord Business plans to use “Kragle” (really a tube of Krazy Glue with some of the letters smudged out) to freeze the entire Lego universe so that it looks perfect forever. Emmett has found the “Piece of Resistance” (the cap of the Krazy Glue), so Bad Cop (Liam Neeson, who also has a good cop on the other side of his head) shows up to capture him.



Just before Bad Cop kills Emmett, a woman named Wildstyle (Elizabeth Banks) shows up and saves him. Emmett discovers that Wildstyle is part of an elite group of Legos known as the “Master Builders” who can build anything they want to with the pieces around them without a manual. The Master Builders are led by the wizard Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman) and are also helped by Batman, Superman, Milhouse (from *The Simpsons*), and the NBA All-Star team. After Bad Cop attacks the Master Builders’ hideout, Emmett is left to stop Lord Business with only a few of the Master Builders. They attempt to infiltrate Lord Business’s office building, but they are caught, and Vitruvius is killed. Emmett is thrown off of the edge of the universe and finds himself in the real world where a boy has been playing with his father’s (Will Ferrell) perfect Lego world. The boy convinces his father that creativity is important, and the father abandons his plan to freeze the world with Kragle.

The movie is laced with humor throughout the story and never gets old. I would highly recommend it to anyone, regardless of age or maturity level.

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Are you an American woman?

Do you love jewelry?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, then do we have the opportunity of a lifetime for you! We are selling a priceless 1708 American Girl Jewelry box, and we are offering a special 50% discount for American women over 60 years old. If you are interested in this fabulous piece of American History, then call 1-855-NOTAREALNUMBER, and start bidding today!

Bidding starts at \$5,000,000; any bid under will not be accepted.

WARNING: 1708 American Jewelry box does contain Toxic chemicals. Do NOT handle jewelry box without protective eye wear and gloves. If any part of box is touched, call poison control immediately, but first you should probably call your family; if you touch this, you’re pretty much done for.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## *Lone Survivor*

By Cole Deal

*Lone Survivor* is a thrilling, amazing, and emotional movie. The movie is based on a true story of four United States Navy SEALs who go on a mission called "Operation Red Wings" to find Taliban leader, Ahmad Shah. The four Navy SEALs, Marcus Luttrell, Michael Murphy, Matthew Axelson, and Danny Dietz are given the task to find Ahmad Shah. Before I went to see the movie, I had known the basic story but not much more than that, which is why this movie stood out for numerous people, including me.

*Lone Survivor* displayed many things to me. I realize what our soldiers really go through to fight for our country, especially the training the Navy SEALs go through. The movie teaches us that not everything goes well in wars for



the U.S., and these men risk their lives every day for some things that might not be worth it. Another aspect that stood out to me was Pashtunwali, which is an unwritten ethical code, which the Pashtun people of Afghanistan follow. It basically states that all who are guests to you must be protected at all cost. This code was one of the reasons why Marcus Luttrell survived.

The acting in the movie was great and really presented what these men did for our country that day. Mark Wahlberg did an amazing job in the movie, and I think he represented

Luttrell well. The other actors also did well in the movie. Although the story cannot be told from the other three soldiers' perspectives, they represented Murphy, Axelson, and Dietz well. I had also not known before I saw *Lone Survivor* that many more people died while trying to save the four soldiers when their helicopter was shot down. As the fight went on, the movie just got better and better. Many people took different perspectives away from this movie. For some it might make them want to go the U.S. military and fight for our country. For others it might do the opposite, making them scared ever to go into the heat of battle. For me it did neither, but just made me even more thankful for those who protect us every day.

Overall, this was one of the best movies I have ever seen. Even though it is rated R, I recommend it to those who are allowed to see it.

## *The Monuments Men*

\*Warning: May contain spoilers\*

By Will Weaver

Based on a true story, *The Monuments Men* is about a group of art collectors, painters, and architects who are tasked to find and protect historical pieces of art that might be in danger of being destroyed by conflict or stolen by the Nazis in WWII. The group is put together and led by sketch artist and painter Frank Stokes (George Clooney) who leads a group portrayed



by famous actors such as Bill Murray, Matt Damon, John Goodman, and others. The team is sent to French and German cities to find all of the art that the Nazis have stolen and to return the pieces to their collectors. After the loss of two men and no sign of the missing art, the group finds that all of the art has been hidden in mineral mines. They scramble to collect all of the art before the Soviets capture it as war

reparations. They succeed and return every piece of art (that hasn't already been damaged) to its rightful owner.

The movie itself was well written, but the ending where George Clooney is shown as an old man looking back on the days of the Monuments Men is, at best, a slapdash effort to throw the message that art is important at the audience. Overall, though, I would give the movie two thumbs up and recommend it to anyone curious about the subject.

**Editors' Note:** Robert Edsel, the author of the book, *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History*, the basis for the movie, is the guest speaker at the Father/Son Dinner on March 11th in the dining hall.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Smaug Sparks a Fire-Literally

By John Spurgeon

*The Desolation of Smaug* is the second movie of the three *Hobbit* movies. It takes place in Middle Earth, where a Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, goes on a quest to slay a dragon. The movie had many good elements and only a few bad. I will start with the good.

The special effects were really good. Everything animated looked completely real, especially Smaug, who was terrifying to see in theaters. The plot was very good. It was more exciting than the first one and had an actual villain from the book. The



villain was the dragon Smaug, a cocky, massive dragon who has been asleep for a very long time. Twelve dwarves, a hobbit, and a wizard go on this journey to reclaim the Dwarves "Kingdom under the Mountain." It is a story gripped with fierce action, strong suspense, and a thrilling tale. I really enjoyed watching this movie.

Now, I will discuss the bad aspects of the movie. It left us on a horrible cliff hanger. Smaug is flying off screaming about how he is "fire" and "death" and other things as he goes to attack Laketown. This scene is not

necessarily a bad thing; it was spun well by Peter Jackson, but it does make us have to wait for the next movie to find out what happens. Another bad thing about this movie was the weird boy dwarf-girl elf relationship thing. That was pretty strange. It was really awkward considering that she was twice as tall as he was. Another negative aspect

about this movie was that Legolas was portrayed as a bad guy. In *The Lord of The Rings* trilogy, he is one of the best good guys, and to switch that up in these movies seemed wrong.

*The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* was a well done movie. I will definitely be getting it when it comes out on DVD. This movie had good aspects and bad, but the good definitely outweighed the bad. Overall, I will give this movie 8.5 stars out of 10. It is a great movie, and I recommend it to all.

## Happy Birthday, Mrs. Qian??!!



An ongoing tradition for each seventh-grade Algebra I Honors class who has Mrs. Qian as their teacher is to wish her a "Happy Birthday" multiple times throughout the year. In fact, I don't know if this class even knows when Mrs. Qian's real birthday is. According to students in the class, this class has celebrated Mrs. Qian's faux birthday over 100 times this year!



# ENTERTAINMENT

## The Seventh-Grade Class Views *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*



By Doug Gaw

One Tuesday, December 17, most of the seventh-grade class went to go see the movie, *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* which is part two of the *Hobbit* Trilogy. The class hopped on a bus and rode down to the Regal Theater in Green Hills. After exiting the bus we were instructed to get in a single file line and wait for the popcorn and drinks. Once we received our food and beverage, we went in and sat down to watch the movie. *The Desolation of Smaug* was a very entertaining movie, and it was fun to see the movie after reading the book in the fall. On the bus ride back to the school, people could not stop talking about the movie. We all had a very good time, and I would recommend *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* to any of my peers.

And finally, the seventh-grade class and I would like to thank John Rochford for giving us the opportunity to see the movie free of charge.



*The Seventh-Grade Class at the viewing of The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*

## Thank You, Mr. Rochford!

# SPORTS

## XXII Winter Olympic Games Recap

By Cole Deal

The 22nd Winter Olympic Games were held in Sochi, Russia this year. Sochi does not typically have a cold climate except in the Caucasus Mountains, which made it an unusual place to host the games. This climate provided a challenge for some sports, especially snowboarding and skiing. The Olympics were filled with upsets and surprises as countries from around the world competed for a spot on the podium.

Many U.S. athletes fell short of what they were expected to do, including Shaun White, who was going for his third straight Olympic gold, and Shani Davis, who was trying to defend his gold medal from the Vancouver and Turin Games. The U.S. men's and women's hockey teams also fell short of the gold medal. The U.S. men's team did not even get on the podium even though their hopes had looked high after beating host team Russia in a shootout. The



women's team tried to get revenge against Canada after losing the gold medal in Vancouver, but they fell short once again in overtime to Canada. However, many U.S. athletes went even further than they were expected to, and some did exactly what they were expected to do. Meryl Davis and Charlie White won the gold medal in the ice dancing competition, beating out Canadian favorites, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir. At age 36, four-time Olympian Bode Miller won a bronze medal in the Alpine skiing men's super-G. Ted Ligety also won a gold medal in the Alpine skiing men's giant slalom. Another surprise victory came from a first time Olympian. Mikaela Shiffrin who won gold in the women's slalom.

In the Sochi games, there were many new events, and many of them were gender specific. A new event for women was the ski jump. Although no U.S. women placed, it was a great sport to add. Another event was the team figure skating. It is similar to the summer's gymnastics team event and is a great way to start off that sport in the Olympics. The

U.S. team placed third in this event. Different countries had great athletes in different sports. A fifteen year old girl from Russia competed in the games and did extremely well. You could say that the Dutch owned speed skating, as they won 23 medals in that sport alone, 20 more than the next



*Meryl Davis and Scott White take home the gold in ice dance.*



*Gold Medalist Mikaela Shiffrin*

most.

The Olympics are a great way to bring countries together and have athletes represent their countries. The overall medal count was Russia with 33, the U.S.A. with 28, and Norway with 26. The XXII Olympic Winter Games turned out great and several athletes have a chance to redeem themselves in four years in South Korea.



# SPORTS

## Bring It On: Baseball's Back

By John Spurgeon

The wait is almost over. The MLB 2014 season is just around the corner. All thirty teams have officially reported to spring training, and the most-watched camp is the Yankees with Jeter retiring and Japanese phenom Masahiro Tanaka reporting to camp. Also, A-roid isn't in the camp.

We'll start in the A.L. East, which includes the Red Sox, Yankees, Orioles, Blue Jays, and Rays. The Red Sox did little to add to their World Championship team. They signed catcher A.J. Pierzynski and resigned 1B-Mike Napoli. The Yankees were the exact opposite of the Red Sox. They signed (and the list is long): Masahiro Tanaka, Carlos Beltran, Brian McCann, Jacoby Ellsbury, Brian Roberts, and Kelly Johnson, while resigning Hiroki Kuroda. The Orioles had a solid offseason and improved their roster. Their main additions were RHP Ubaldo Jimenez and RF-Nelson Cruz. Cruz, who served a suspension for PED use, hit 27 home runs even with the 50-game suspension. There is not much to say about the Blue Jays because they did almost nothing aside from a few minor deals. The Rays were the same way, except they resigned Jose Molina and James Loney. They also traded for C-Ryan Hannigan.

Next is the N.L. East, which includes the Braves, Nationals, Phillies, Mets, and Marlins. The Braves locked up their young talent long term. Those players were Jason Heyward, Freddie Freeman, Andrelton Simmons, Craig Kimbrel, and



Julio Tehran. The Nationals did little. They traded for RHP-Doug Fister and OF-Nate McClouth. The Phillies signed Marylon Byrd and A.J. Burnett. The Mets added OFs-Curtis Granderson and Chris Young. The Marlins signed SS-Rafael Furcal.

Next is the A.L. Central, which includes the Tigers, Royals, Indians, and White Sox. The Tigers made a blockbuster trade getting Ian Kinsler from the Rangers in exchange for Prince Fielder. They also signed closer Joe Nathan. The Royals signed Omar Infante and traded for Norichika Aoki. The Indians did nothing aside from a few minor deals. The White Sox signed Cuban free agent Jose Abreu to play first base.

The N.L. Central is made up of the Cardinals, Pirates, Reds, Brewers, and Cubs. The Cardinals signed free agent SS-Jhonny Peralta, traded for OF-Peter Bourjos and signed A.J. Ellis. The Pirates did little this offseason, but did resign players and give some extensions. The Reds added a new manager in Bryan Price and gave Homer Bailey a 100 million dollar extension. The Brewers

added Matt Garza and Mark Reynolds. The Cubs again did little to improve their last place team.

Next is the A.L. West, which includes the A's, Rangers, Angels, Mariners, and Astros. The A's made many minor moves to improve on their team. The Rangers got Prince Fielder in the trade with the Tigers. They also signed OF-Shin-Shoo Choo. The Angels extended Mike Trout and traded for David Freese. They also signed DH-Raul Ibanez. The Mariners had the second best offseason behind the Yankees. Their list is long, too: Robinson Cano (the best free agent this year), Logan Morrison, Corey Hart, and Fernando Rodney. The Astros did little to improve their Major League worst record.

Last is the N.L. West, which includes the Dodgers, D-Backs, Giants, Padres, and Rockies. The Dodgers did little to improve the team that some expect to be the best this season. The D-Backs traded for young slugger LF-Mark Trumbo. The Giants signed veteran RHP Tim Hudson. The Padres signed

*Continued on page 26*

# SPORTS

*Baseball continued from page 25*

setup man Jaquin Benoit. The Rockies acquired Brett Anderson from the A's and signed 1B-Justin Morneau in their relatively quiet offseason.

Now for some predictions. I believe that in the A.L East the Yankees will win the division, in the N.L East the Nationals will win the division, in the A.L Central the Tigers will win, in the N.L Central the Cardinals will win the division, in the A.L West the Rangers will win the division, and in the N.L West the Dodgers will win the division. The Braves and Pirates will play in the N.L Wild Card game, and the Braves will win. The A's and Red Sox will play in the A.L Wild Card game, and the Red Sox will win. The Cardinals will beat the Nationals in the Division Series, along

with the Dodgers beating the Braves in the other N.L. series. The Cardinals will beat the Dodgers and get to the World Series. The Yankees will beat the Red Sox in one Division Series, and the Rangers will beat the Tigers in the other.

I also think that the Yankees will beat the Rangers and advance to the World Series. In the World Series, I believe that the Yankees will beat the Cardinals in seven games to get the Captain a final World Series victory.

And finally, to finish the preview for the 2014 MLB season, a tribute to one of the greatest Yankees of all time, Mr. November, Captain Clutch, Derek Jeter. He is 10th all-time in hits (3,316). He is fifth all-time for short stops in batting average (.312), 10th in on-base percentage (.381),

2nd in runs (1876), 9th in RBI (1261), and 5th in home runs (256). There is no doubt that he is one of the best in history and will live on in Yankee and MLB history forever.



*Derek Jeter*

## The Sweet Sounds of Sherman: An Interview by Sea Hawk

With the recent Super Bowl victory by the Seattle Seahawks over the Denver Broncos, along with the uproar about defensive back and secondary leader of the Seahawks Richard Sherman, Sea Hawk decided to interview the one and only Richard Sherman.



*Richard Sherman*

**Sea:** Today we are here with Super Bowl XLVIII champion cornerback Richard Sherman. Richard, how are you doing?

**Richard:** I'm doing great! Feeling like a champ!

**Sea:** That's great! Following the NFC Championship victory vs. the San Francisco 49ers, you went on quite a rampage in your postgame interview. Do you regret anything that occurred?

**Richard:** No.

**Sea:** Okay. Not anything at all?

**Richard:** Absolutely nothing.

**Sea:** All right then! Is there anything you would like to say to Michael Crabtree? Possibly an apology?

**Richard:** Actually, I would like to say something to Michael. I would like to let him know it felt great to stop real receivers playing against the Broncos. Wes Welker, Eric Decker, and Demaryius Thomas are the real deal. Even throw in Julius Thomas. They are all ten times better than Crabtree!

**Sea:** But you aren't sorry about what you said?

**Richard:** Absolutely not! I would say it a hundred more times. I only speak the truth!

**Sea:** And how is the foot doing after the injury in the Super Bowl?

**Richard:** It feels great!

**Sea:** All right, thanks Richard!

**Richard:** L.O.B.!



# SPORTS

## Top 10 Super Bowl Commercials

By Ben Coulthard

Everyone knows that the Super Bowl captivates the attention of viewers all around the world, and the players in the game are the true stars, but the underdogs of the big game are always the commercials. Unfortunately, the commercials this year were just as bad as the game. (A blowout resulting in a 43-8 Seahawks victory). However, there were some producers of advertisements who were able to put together decent enough clips to make my top 10 list. (Note: These commercials are in no specific order of favorites.)

1. Doritos - Time Machine: A young boy and his dog create a "Time Machine", and they get a neighbor with a bag of Doritos to enter the time machine. However, the only problem is that the time machine runs on Doritos. The man purchases a ticket into the future and the boy makes noises with a bullhorn and kicks the box to make his neighbor believe he is entering the future. The man who lives in the house that the time machine is in comes out and tells the boy to get out of the yard, but the man in the time machine comes out and believes the old man is the future version of the boy. Overall: 8/10

2. Bud Light - A Night to Remember: An anonymous man named Ian is offered a Bud Light with only one thing he has to do: Do whatever happens afterwards. The situation ends up working in the Ian's best interest. He rides in a stretch limo with comedian/DJ Reggie Watts. Ian goes to a party where he gets stuck in an elevator with actor Don Cheadle, Don's pet llama, and a group of twins. The twins take him to a ping-pong match where Ian plays against Arnold Schwarzenegger and beats Arnold! To cap off the crazy night, Ian gets put on-stage at a OneRepublic concert. Not a bad night. Overall: 9.5/10

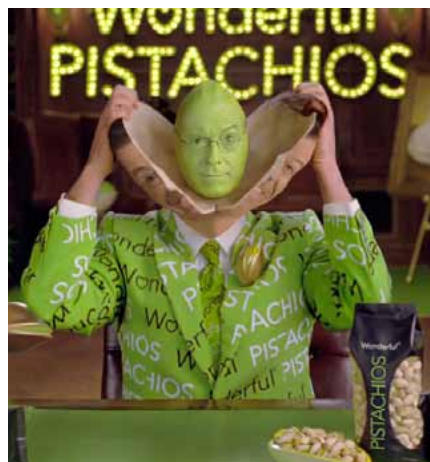
3. Radioshack - Phone Call: Radioshack takes a clever shot at themselves and their outdated store when the 80's calls to ask for their store back. A crazy swarm of 80's stars such as Hulk Hogan, Erik Estrada, and ALF take everything off the shelves including VCRs, old TVs, and boomboxes to make way for the new, hip products that come in such as Beats, Samsung tablets, and smartphones. Overall: 9.5/10

4. Volkswagen - 100,000 Miles Gives You Wings!: A dad tells his daughter a piece of little known information. Apparently, every time a Volkswagen hits 100,000 miles, a German engineer grows his personal set of wings. Hilarity ensues when engineers get stuck in cars, slapped, and caught in a wind tunnel. The daughter doesn't believe the urban legend; however, the dad knows what he is talking about. Overall: 9/10

5. Wonderful Pistachios - Stephen Colbert: Wonderful Pistachios decides to get



comedian/talk show host Stephen Colbert to endorse their product, but Colbert feels since the nuts are wonderful and he is wonderful, the nuts will sell themselves. Alas, sales don't skyrocket in 30 seconds, so Colbert pretty much puts the Wonderful Pistachio logo on everything from the wallpaper, a bald eagle, and his own head. Very creepy. However, I'm pretty sure that pistachio sales went up in high numbers. Overall: 8.5/10



6. M&M's - Russian Mafia: As always, the yellow M&M has gotten himself in trouble. This time, he has gotten himself involved with the Russian mafia. He's been thrown into the back of a car, and the head of the mafia says in Russian, "You know what I'm going

*Continued on page 28*

# SPORTS

*Commericals continued from page 27*

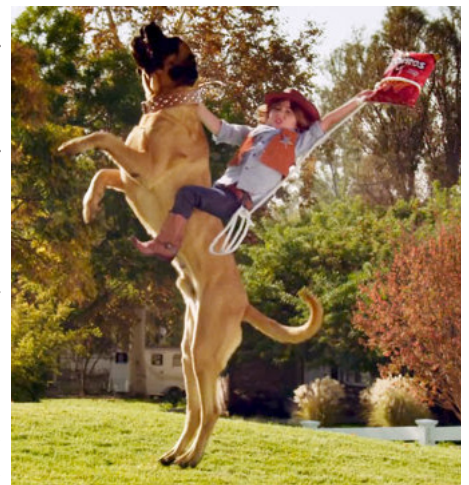
to do to you? First, I'm going to chop you up into little pieces. And then, I'm going to sprinkle you on a big bowl of ice cream." Of course, the M&M is clueless, and he just laughs and agrees with them. Overall: 8/10

7. Chobani - Bear Yogurt: In a little small town general store, everything is going just fine and dandy until a bear barges into the store. Everyone is terrified of the bear! They have no clue what is going to happen to them! The bear wants no trouble, just some yogurt. The cashier dives under the register just as the bear rings the bell for service, but gets no answer. He goes on his way with his yogurt. Overall: 8.5/10

8. Kia - The Truth: The *Matrix* movies seem to have been re-created as Laurence Fishburne returns as Morpheus and lets everyone know that luxury cars are going to change as we know them. He offers a couple the blue key, which will return them to the luxury they know, but also offers them a red key, which will make it so the couple will never look at luxury the same again. The daring couple choose the red key, and they are surprised at how amazing the new Kia they have been presented with is. Morpheus magically appears and lets them see how luxury looks like, feels like, and even sings so luxury can be heard. Overall: 10/10

9. Budweiser - Puppy Love: For the second year in a row, Budweiser put together an emotion provoking commercial where a Labrador Retriever puppy runs away from his home twice to find his Clydesdale horse friend, only to get taken back by the horse trainer. The puppy finally gets adopted and is going to leave his home for the final time, but the horse he became friends with gets the other horses together to bring the dog back to the horse stable to become friends forever. Overall: 10/10

10. Doritos - Kid Cowboy: Mom comes home from the grocery store looking for helpers to bring groceries inside, but her sons are unwilling to help. Little do they know that there are Doritos for whoever helps. The smart aleck son makes a run for the Doritos, but his little cowboy brother calls his "horse" (actually a dog) to ride him to victory! The little cowboy gets the Doritos and ties up his brother in the meantime! Just remember, if mom asks for help, there may be incentive for those who help! Overall: 9/10.



## Peyton Pounded by High-Flying Hawks

By John Spurgeon

I'm sure that the Super Bowl was as big a disappointment for you as it was for me. The commercials were below average, and the game stunk. The Broncos lost the game by a large 43-8 deficit even though Peyton Manning set a Super Bowl record for completions with 33. Broncos wide receiver Demaryius Thomas also set a Super Bowl record with 13 receptions. The game started with the Broncos' center snapping the ball over Peyton Manning's head into the endzone for a safety. That play set the tone for the rest of the game, as the Broncos did not score at all until the 3rd quarter.

The Seahawks, however, consistently put up points during the whole game to stomp the Broncos. If one were to look at the stats of each player, and not the score of the game, it would not look like a blowout. However, the Broncos missed opportunities throughout the whole game that kept them off the scoreboard. Peyton Manning is one of the greatest quarterbacks in history, but his failure to win multiple Super Bowl rings raises questions for football fans about his exact place in history. Russell Wilson has added a Super Bowl to his resume in a young career that is sure to be exceptional, but Peyton Manning may have lost his last chance to win a second Super Bowl.



# SPORTS

## Preds Poised to Make Play-Offs A Nashville Predators Update

\*As of 2/24/14\*

By Robert Cowan

The Nashville Predators are trying to stay in the hunt with a record of 25-24-10 and 60 points, which has them 12th in the conference. Since the last update, the Preds have made some major changes. The Predators acquired D-Michael Del Zotto from the Rangers and G Devan Dubnyk from the Oilers. The reasons for these trades are simple. The Preds wanted Del Zotto so they could have a left-handed defenseman to play left wing. The Predators got Dubnyk so they could have some veteran presence in the net to help their two rookie goalies. Right now, Nashville has Carter Hutton as their other goalie. Hutton is a good goalie right now, but the Preds would really benefit from the return of Pekka Rinne. Speaking of Pekka, he is close to a return. He has started to practice and work out again. If you don't know what I'm talking about, Pekka has been out since October 22nd with a hip infection. Before Pekka can play, he will need to play a couple games with the Milwaukee Admirals, the Preds minor league team, to get back in the swing of things.



*Pekka Rinne stopping a puck.*

Right before the Preds went on the Olympic break, their General Manager David Poile was hit with a puck during a morning skate, and Pete Weber, the long time broadcaster, had a heart attack. David Poile had to have facial reconstruction surgery. The puck broke a bone around his eye and his nose. Poile said in a press conference that he has lost sight in his right eye and that he hopes to regain his sight. Pete Weber had to have a heart procedure and should make a full recovery.

The Preds are struggling to make the playoffs, and one reason might be because they can't score goals. They have 145 goals, which isn't that many, and have allowed 180 goals. With the trade deadline coming up in a couple of weeks, the Preds will be looking to gain a goal-scorer.

The Predators might be the most streaky team in the NHL. They lost two in-a-row and then won three in a row. You can't guess with this team. The Preds had one game where Eric Nystrom scored 4 goals, but they still couldn't pull out a win, losing 5-4 in a shootout. Losing in overtime or in a shootout is the norm for this team, and they are behind only a couple other teams in terms of losing games in overtime. Going into the Olympic break, the Preds lost their last three games.



*David Legwand scores the game-tying goal against the New Jersey Devils.*

The Predators sent two players to the Olympics: Roman Josi for Team Switzerland and Shea Weber for Team Canada. Weber and Team Canada ended up winning the gold medal, and Shea had three goals and three assists. Roman Josi had a pretty good performance in his first Olympic Games. The Predators are coming off the Olympic break and will try to make a run for the playoffs in their last 32 games. Pekka Rinne should be starting in some games in the minors this week, (2/23/14-3/1/14).

Stats Leaders

Points Leader- David Legwand with 40 points

Goals Leader-Craig Smith with 18 goals

Penalty Minutes- Rich Clune with 115 Minutes



*L - R - Shea Weber, Sidney Crosby, and Jonathan Toews*

# SPORTS

## Fantastic Finishes: 2013 Pro Sports Year in Review

By Robert Cowan

When most people think of a year in review, they don't think about an article coming out in March, but that's exactly what this is. I'm going to relive all the great finishes for the teams that won championships. I'm not doing every sport, only the most popular ones. First, back to October for some baseball.

In baseball, the Boston Red Sox were "Boston Strong" and beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-2 in a best of seven series to win the World Series. The series started in Boston, where the two teams split the two games 1-1. The series shifted to St. Louis, where the series grew tight. The Cardinals won the first game to take a 2-1 lead in the

series. This loss wouldn't pull down the Red Sox. The next two games in St. Louis were won by the Red Sox, giving them a 3-2 lead in the series. Game six would go back to Boston. This game was controlled by the Red Sox the whole time. The Cardinals' rookie pitcher, Michael Wacha, had been unbeaten in the playoffs going into this important game. The Red Sox took advantage of Wacha's being a rookie and won the game 6-1. David Ortiz won the MVP award and was one of the main forces for the Red Sox the whole year. This was the first time that the Red Sox won the series in Boston since 1918 and was a major lift for the city after the bombing at the Boston Marathon.

Hockey's Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup after the shortened season. Last year's NHL season was shortened because of a lockout that cut the season in half. The Chicago Blackhawks took on the Boston Bruins in the Finals. The series started off with a very entertaining game; after three periods, the game was tied 3-3 and would need not one, not two, but three overtimes. In the third overtime, Andrew Shaw was Chicago's hero. The Blackhawks led the best of seven series 1-0. Game two in Chicago also took overtime. The game was low scoring, with the final being 2-1, and Daniel Paille of the Bruins having the winning goal. The series was then tied 1-1. Games three and four were played in Boston, and the Bruins won game three 2-0, giving them the lead in the series 2-1. In game four, both teams' offenses showed up. The Blackhawks won this game 6-5 in overtime. Boston Bruins player Patrice Bergeron scored two goals, and Blackhawks player Brent Seabrook got the game-winning goal. This win tied the series up 2-2. The Blackhawks won game five and took a 3-2 series lead into game six. In game



2013 Stanley Cup Champs,  
Chicago Blackhawks

six, Boston was winning the game 2-1 with only two minutes left in the game, but with 76 seconds left Chicago tied it. This game looked like it was going into overtime, but Dave Bolland would not let that happen. A shot from the point was stopped by Boston's goalie Tuukka Rask, and the rebound went right to David Bolland, who put the puck in with only 59 seconds left in the game and secured the Stanley Cup for the Blackhawks, their second in four years.

Although the NFL Super Bowl took place over a year ago, it was a memorable one. The Ravens would take on the San Francisco 49ers in the 47th Super Bowl. Jim Harbaugh and John Harbaugh are brothers, and each coached one of the teams in the Super Bowl. The Ravens finished the season 10-6 and defeated the Patriots in the AFC Championship; the 49ers finished the season 11-4-1 and defeated the Falcons in the NFC Championship. The first half was dominated by the Ravens, with the score being 21-6 at the half. The game started off with both teams scoring on their first drive, the Ravens with a touchdown and the 49ers with a field goal. The first quarter ended with the score 7-3. The second quarter was controlled by the Ravens also, with the score being 21-6 at the half. The second half started off with a bang for Ravens as well. Jacoby Jones returned

*Continued on page 31*



Boston Red Sox celebrate their  
World Series win.



# SPORTS

*Finishes continued from page 30*



*Joe Flacco raises the Lombardi trophy.*

the kickoff for a 108-yard run to give the Ravens a 28-6 lead. When the 49ers got the ball back, the power went out in the stadium for 30 minutes and threw off the momentum the Ravens had built. The 49ers scored 17 points after the power came back, cutting the lead to 28-23. The fourth quarter was

very close, with the Ravens scoring 6 points and the 49ers scoring 8 points to make the final score 34-31. The MVP of the Super Bowl was the Ravens' QB Joe Flacco. This would also be the last game for Ray Lewis, as his great career came to an end with a Super Bowl win.

The final sport to review is basketball. The Miami Heat won their second straight title. The best of seven series started off in Miami, Florida, with the Heat taking on the San Antonio Spurs. The Spurs were able to pull out a win in the first game 92-88, but it wasn't an easy win. LeBron James got a triple-double. The second game was also close, but the Heat pulled out the win 103-84 and tied the series 1-1. The third game moved to San Antonio. Game

three was controlled by the Spurs and the final score was 113-77. This was the worst playoff loss for the Heat this year. The rest of this series was back and forth and would need a game seven. LeBron James won the MVP Award for the second straight year. The Heat won the game 95-88, winning their second straight title.



*LeBron James with the hardware*

## 2014 NBA

## All-Star Weekend

By Henry Rhodes



The NBA All-Star weekend was thrilling. From 3-point shooting, dunking, skills, and some all-around exceptional play, it was awesome. In the first event on the Friday of the All-Star weekend, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was named the MVP. The award was given to him by the comedian and actor Kevin Hart. Mr. Duncan also had a behind-the-head pass to WNBA player Skylar Diggins for a crucial layup down the stretch. That same night, the Rising Stars game was played with the Western Conference playing for Team Hill and the East playing for Team Webber. Team Hill beat Team Webber by

only 6 points (142-136). Andre Drummond won the MVP Award with 30 points and 24 rebounds, which is a new Rising Stars record. The next night was for the Shooting Skills competition, the 3-point contest, and the dunk contest.

First off, the Shooting Stars contest was once again taken by Team Bosh with the same team that has won this event two years in a row. Chris Bosh, Dominique Wilkins, and WNBA star Swin Cash then completed the challenge in 31.4 seconds. Next up was the Taco Bell Skills Challenge, where there were 4 teams. Two came from each conference, and they each performed different skills. Team Lillard and Burke won this event.

The event after the Skills Challenge was the 3-point contest, where Stephen Curry, who was the favorite in this event, came in only third place, while Marco Belinelli won the event in surprise

fashion. The last, and arguably the most important and entertaining part of All-Star weekend aside from the All-Star game itself, was the Dunk Contest. The new format has an East vs. West match in which either the Eastern Conference team or the Western Conference team wins the event. The best dunker of the night is voted on by the fans. The East completely annihilated the West, as the West only won one dunk. The dunker of the night was John Wall, who had a masterful dunk, even though I thought Ben McLemore should have won by virtue of his jump OVER Shaq.

And now the moment you have all been waiting for: the All-Star Game. The game started with the East taking a double digit lead, and then the West mounted a massive comeback. The East ended up pulling it out. Although Blake Griffin had 18 points, all 9 shots were dunks that would have easily won any dunk contest EVER. Kyrie Irving was named the MVP. Overall, I would give this All-Star Weekend a 9.25/10 for the masterful All-Star Game and the amazing skills that were showcased by the players.

# SPORTS



## Commodore Corner



By Ben Coulthard

### Tyler Beede Answers Questions About Baseball, Beedah, and Blue Jays

By Ben Coulthard

On March 1, I had the privilege of interviewing Vanderbilt pitcher Tyler Beede. Tyler is the anchor of a Vanderbilt pitching staff that is expected to be one of the best staffs the Commodores have ever had. They have been projected by many college baseball experts to reach the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska, this summer. Here are his answers to some of the many questions I had for him.

Ben Coulthard: After going 1-5 in your freshman season, what switch got flipped during your sophomore season when you went 14-1?

Tyler Beede: I think it was a bit of consistency in my routine, I think in my freshman year, I didn't have a good routine. In between starts, I didn't really know what I was doing, and that's just part of freshman year, going through things and going with the flow of the team and what the staff is doing. I learned a lot of things such as pitching in the SEC and getting out there for some games that I haven't been used to, so being able to live through those experiences prepared me for sophomore year.



*Tyler Beede and Ben Coulthard*

BC: You were named a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award (the award that goes to the top amateur baseball player in the country) last year. What factors do you think led to your being named as a finalist?

TB: I think the fact that we had a great team behind me was a huge factor because I wouldn't have been in the position I was without great defense and a great catcher like Spencer Navin, so it made my job easy. I happened to escape with some wins towards the end of the season.

BC: The changeup is one of the best pitches you throw. Who taught you how to throw it? What advice would you give to pitchers who are wanting to learn how to throw this type of pitch?

TB: I learned it from my first pitching coach ever back in ninth grade. He taught me to hold it like an egg, and throw it with the same arm speed of my fastball, and I've also gone through some trial and error with it using different grips, but for the most part, I try to hold it very loose in my hand, far out in my fingertips, and to throw it as hard as I can.

BC: The Toronto Blue Jays took you as their first-round pick. Why did you decline their offer in order to go to college, and why did you choose Vanderbilt over other colleges?

TB: I originally chose Vanderbilt because I came to a camp here during my freshman summer, and I fell in love with everything like the campus, the atmosphere, and obviously the coaching staff at the time. This was a dream school of mine, so going through the process, I knew I wanted the college experience, I wanted to be a kid for three years, so coming here was a pretty easy decision. I also knew the kids who had come through here such as David Price, Sonny Gray, and Mike Minor, and I saw how things went for them.

BC: What's it like to play for Coach Corbin?

*Interview continued on page 33*



# SPORTS

*Interview continued from page 32*

TB: It's amazing. He's a player's coach. He cares for the players, he'll do anything for the players, and you're also learning something new every day because we're up in the classroom, and he's teaching us stuff about the game that I feel like other programs don't really do. He's a guy that really taps into the mental side of the game, who really taps into the mind. He's a special coach, and we really love him a lot because he's like a dad to us here.

BC: How do you see the season unfolding for this year's team? What teams do you see as challenging for Vanderbilt this year and why?

TB: We definitely have a really talented group, and I think the biggest things we do well are pitching and defense, and that's the key to winning. You saw UCLA last year win the College World Series off of pitching and defense and not a great offense. I'm not saying we don't have a great offense because we have a lot of talented hitters who are going to mature and get better throughout the year. Obviously, playing in the SEC with a lot of tough opponents such as LSU and South Carolina who are playing really well right now and pretty much every SEC opponent is going to be tough. Playing Stanford right now (whom they eventually swept in a three-game series) is pretty good preparation for what's to come.

BC: What are this year's team's greatest strengths? What are weaknesses that need to be focused on?

TB: Like I said, the greatest strengths are our pitching and defense. I'm not a hitter, so I'm not going to say the hitting needs improvement, but I think all areas of our game need improvement. Our team chemistry is really good, we're all gelling well, and we feel really good because we're winning some games and will try to continue to do that.



BC: What are some of your favorite activities you and the team do outside of workouts and games? (i.e team dinners, video games, movies) ?

TB: It's cool that we all live on the same floor on the dorm for the most part. There's about 16 of us that live on the same floor, so a lot of video games get played, a lot of movie watching, and all that. It's a unique situation because the freshman are all on the other side of campus, but when they get the chance, they come over and hang out, and if we're not in the locker room the whole day, we're over in the dorms together, so we try to be together as much as possible.

BC: Who's the funniest guy on the team? Who's the serious guy? Who's the smartest? Who's the most mischievous?

TB: I'll tell you what, the freshman class is hilarious. It's probably between Hayden Stone and John Kilichowski to me. Brian Miller is pretty serious, but he can joke around a lot. Adam Ravenelle, Chris Harvey, and Drake Parker are all pretty serious, too. Some of the smarter guys are Tyler Ferguson, Luke Stephenson, Penn Murfee, and Vince Conde. Stephen Rice hands down is the most mischievous.

BC: You were picked to be a part of the Team USA Collegiate team this past summer. What was it like to play on the same team with some of the people Vanderbilt plays against?

TB: It was awesome because when you play baseball for a long period of time, you'll end up playing guys you played against when you were younger. To be able to play with kids we play against in college, you go into it not really knowing what type of personalities they have, but you realize you all share a lot of the same things in common. It was cool to be able to travel around the country and to Japan with those guys and to be able to have fun with those guys because they have a lot of fun personalities.

BC: Growing up, who were your favorite players in the major leagues and why? Whom do you like today and why?

TB: Roger Clemens and Josh Beckett were two. I tried to model my pitching mechanics after Josh Beckett when I was younger because he played for the Boston Red Sox. I also liked Pedro Martinez. Now, I'm a big fan of Matt Harvey, the way he plays and his pitching mentality, and after watching the postseason this year, I'm a big fan of Michael Wacha just because he's a young guy who just came out of college a couple of years ago, and he's having the success he's having now. He has a bright future.

*Interview continued on page 34*

# SPORTS

*Interview continued from page 33*

BC: What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced in your athletic career and what helped you through them?

TB: I've faced a lot of difficult challenges while I've been here at Vanderbilt, and I think that's another reason why a lot of kids come to college because of the mental maturation of it and that process. Being able to learn to not worry about the things you can't control is a big part of it. Learning how to have a routine, being able to breathe, and having a pre-pitch routine and things that might speed up on you during a game. Being able to learn through those things that come with the experiences have helped me through the adverse situations I've gone through.

BC: What advice would you give to baseball players in seventh and eighth grade who want to play baseball for their school team?

TB: It takes a tremendous amount of work ethic and a lot of commitment. You've got to be willing to put in the hours and repetitions to improve at your game, so whether it's going through dry work as a pitcher, or tee work as a hitter, but the more reps you do, the better you'll get. At the same time, never lose the fun of the game. Always play with a smile, and remember that it's just a game.

BC: Would the advice be different for those who want to play possibly into college?

TB: The same things go, but it also takes an extra bit of commitment. You're going to have friends who are going to want to go out on the weekends, not to say you can't have fun, but you need to go that extra mile to wake up early on Saturday morning and practice and go play baseball. You need to be sharp and really tough, but it's all about the time commitment and what you want to get out of your commitment.

BC: How do you get recruited by college teams who want you to play for them? What are things college teams look for?

TB: A lot of it is going to camps, and if you're interested in a specific school, you can email them and voice your interest, explain the player you are and the character you have, and see if they'll invite you, which is highly likely, but exposure comes from playing summer ball and playing on good teams and improving your game where scouts and college coaches can see you. At the same time, if you put in the work and you're playing hard, the college teams will come find you.

BC: You have developed a name for yourself outside of baseball by rapping under the name Young Beedah. How did you get involved in rapping? Do you see yourself as a rapper in your future?

TB: I lived away from home at prep school my junior and senior year, and the kid who lived next to me would always make beats and had a studio set up in his room, and instead of letting it wake me up at night, I decided to hang out with him and make some beats and rap a little. I was really bad at first, and now I'm just mediocre. If baseball doesn't work, that's for sure my Plan B, but for now, it's a way I can voice my thoughts in the creative way of music. It's fun.

BC: Who are your favorite bands, musical groups, or music artists?

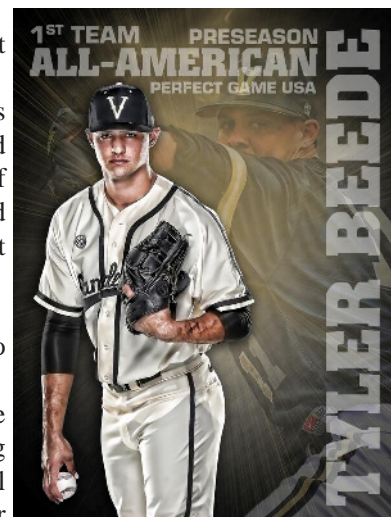
TB: J Cole, that's for sure. Eric Church has really good country music, and Steve Aoki is my favorite dubstep artist.

BC: What's your walk-up song?

TB: J Cole's "Blow Up" is my walk-up song. It's off the *Friday Night Lights* album.

BC: You are a part of a foundation called More Than Me that was created to help athletes across the country give back to their local communities. How did you get involved in this foundation?

TB: My freshman summer, I stayed home. I didn't play summer ball. It ended up being a blessing because I got to hang out with my friends and be around them and just realize that I had a ton of support back home. Being able to realize it wasn't just me playing baseball, and I was representing more than myself and my community back home. Being able to realize that every athlete has an opportunity to represent their community and give back at the same time led me to the idea of starting More Than Me, and it's been a tremendous impact ever since I started it and it's still growing more and more. I've been blessed to have that.



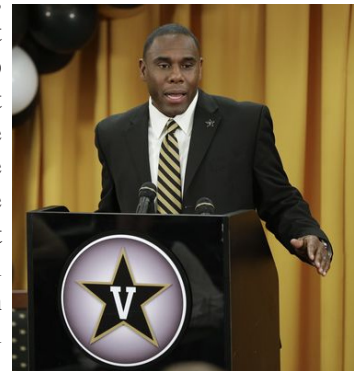


# SPORTS

## Vanderbilt Hires Mason to Dismantle UT Brick by Brick

By Ben Coulthard

One would think that Vanderbilt head football coach James Franklin would have been happy staying in Nashville to coach Vanderbilt's football team after back-to-back nine win seasons and bowl wins. However, Franklin had other thoughts. On January 11, 2014, it was announced that James Franklin had left the head coaching job at Vanderbilt to become the 15th head coach at Penn State. He ended up taking nine of his assistants with him to Happy Valley. Why would he want to leave? Fingers point to the fact that he wanted to be in a better position by jumping from a team in the middle of the SEC to one of the most prolific college football programs in the nation. It was also said that he wanted to build his resume for three or four years and then jump to the NFL. This makes sense because if he does poorly, he will be fired and will have offers pile up after what he has done at Vanderbilt, or he will make Penn State a better team, causing NFL teams to want him since he will have succeeded at one of the highest levels of coaching in college. It was a shame to me as a fan of Vanderbilt athletics because the Commodore Nation hadn't experienced football success until Franklin arrived. Case in point: we had gone 46-116 since 1997.



*Head coach, Derek Mason*

While Franklin had been a successful head coach who was loved by many fans, the way he left the program made me sick. When coaches leave their college, they all contact recruits that had been targeted to let them know the coach is leaving. It also gives the recruits an option to de-commit and flip to another college. Jesse Johnson from Rivals.com said the problem with how Franklin contacted recruits was that he spent the same week that he accepted the job at Penn State attempting to flip recruits to Penn State. He did this while telling Vanderbilt that he was still considering staying. Franklin's assistants also were contacting recruits in an attempt to flip them to Penn State while they were still employed by Vanderbilt. According to Johnson, no one has seen a coach leave a school and actively sign or actively recruit as many target recruits as Franklin did. Franklin had interest in Penn State before the BBVA Compass Bowl that Vanderbilt played in, and he also met with Penn State officials the day after the bowl game. Another eight days went by with Franklin still the "coach" of Vanderbilt while recruits just happened to flip their commitment from Vanderbilt to Penn State (some only four hours after Franklin announced he was leaving Vanderbilt for Penn State). I don't see how the timing or depth of what went on was ethical or in good faith. However, Vanderbilt Athletic Director David Williams found a great new head coach for Vanderbilt.

Derek Mason is the former defensive coordinator for the Stanford Cardinals. They have been ranked in the top 15 in total defense for the past few years. During his press conference when he was introduced, he introduced a new phrase to Commodore Nation that will stick for years to come. "Intellectual Brutality" is how Mason's former boss, David Shaw, built the Stanford program. Mason said, "When you put those two words together, it is a strong statement. When you can be intelligent and beat the brakes off people when they look to step in front of you, it means something. Our guys [at Vanderbilt] are intelligent. They play football as fast and as furious, as licensed by the 9-4 record, as anybody in the country." I feel as if Mason has the right mindset as he brings a talented army of coaches. He brought former coaches from Stanford. The new offensive coordinator will be Karl Dorrell. David Kotulski will be the defensive coordinator. Mason also promised academics will be the top priority at Vanderbilt. "We graduate and educate young men who are going to change the world," Mason said. "We are committed to the cause of making sure we develop men of character and integrity. That is all of the time, not some of the time. I've got one rule - do what's right. You don't need a bunch of rules to make sure your guys understand the process. Do what's right. That says everything, and that's all we have to be about." Mason also has an acronym he wants the players to follow. RESPECT. It means Respond Every Snap, Play with passion, Extreme effort, be Committed, do it Today.

After seeing everything the Vanderbilt football program has had to go through since the departure of James Franklin, I believe the hiring of Derek Mason will bring even more success than Franklin brought to Vanderbilt. The players want him to be their coach, the new coaches want to follow him, and it seems as if Mason genuinely wants to be the head football coach at Vanderbilt and will stay for a long time.

# BIG RED SPORTS

## “A Team” of Champions

By Fenner Pollock

The MBA Junior School ‘A’ basketball team had a great season that finished with a fitting end. The team consisted of Ty Allen, Hunter Burch, Thomas Carr, Jack Crawford, Wesley Hall, Jackson Hannah, Houston Hartle, Zachary Jackson, Will Nutter, Fenner Pollock, Gordon Pollock, Alexander Roberts, and Drew Weikert and was led by Coach Sean Jackson. Throughout the entire season, starting in November, the team worked hard at practice every day. The hard work paid off, and the ‘A’ team finished the season with a record of 16-2 and an HVAC championship.

The team started the season in early December with two games in the Overbrook Classic. MBA outscored its opponents 139-13 in those games versus the CPA ‘B’ team and St. Bernard. The Microbes then entered their next tournament, the Oakland Classic Christmas Tournament, 3-0. MBA had its first challenge of the year and faced a good Whitworth-Buchanan team. The team fought hard in the final minutes and came out with a 45-40 first round win. MBA then cruised to the finals with a comfortable 45-32 win versus Hewitt-Trussville (AL). In the finals versus Irondale (AL), despite the height disadvantage, MBA played hard and competitive and built a large lead in the second half of the game. With unselfish and smart play, MBA defeated Irondale 55-26 and won the Oakland Classic Christmas Tournament. Thomas Carr and Drew Weikert, along with others, played extremely well during this tournament, and Alexander Roberts



*Congratulations to the HVAC Champions!  
not pictured,: Jackson Hannah and Zachary Jackson*

and Will Nutter earned all-tournament honors, with Nutter getting the MVP.

The Junior School basketball ‘A’ team then started the bulk of the season with games versus tough league opponents like Brentwood Academy, Ensworth, and CPA. The team took on a very skilled BA team on January 3rd to start the new year. MBA got off to a fast start, and their full court press got them an 11-0 lead in the first 90 seconds of the game. However, BA battled back and cut it to just two points in the fourth quarter. MBA then hit clutch free throws to seal a 41-36 victory. Tough point guard play from Fenner Pollock and Jack Crawford, key buckets from Will Nutter, Gordon Pollock, and Alexander Roberts, and a great performance from Drew Weikert, who had a game-high sixteen points, also helped MBA get the win. The Big Red basketball team then faced a tough game against rival Ensworth four days later. The team played with great

intensity, and both their offense and defense played hard. Every player on MBA scored as the team cruised to a 67-36 win. The Microbes then comfortably beat BGA 56-14, and the next game up was BA once again. The Big Red were surprised by the BA defense, and the Eagles hit five three-pointers in the first half alone. MBA suffered its first loss of the season. MBA bounced back after the loss and won three in a row, beating CPA twice and Sycamore Middle by a large amount. The CPA basketball team played extremely tough in the second meeting between the two schools, and they gave MBA a tough challenge. After getting on a winning streak, the Big Red then played a very improved Ensworth team who wanted revenge. MBA competed with Ensworth in one of the most intense and closest games of the year. Despite three players from MBA fouling out, the competitive game

*Continued on page 37*



# BIG RED SPORTS

*A Team continued from page 36*

went into overtime, where the Tigers edged the Big Red by three points. The MBA basketball team bounced back once again and finished its last two regular season games with wins versus FRA and BGA. The toughest and best part of the season then started, which is the HVAC tournament.

MBA played Ensworth once again for their third matchup of the season, but this time in the semifinals. The Big Red stepped up to the challenge in the second and third quarters of the semifinal game and outscored Ensworth 29-7 in those two quarters. MBA played one of their best games of the year and played with heart and unselfishness. The Big Red ended up winning the semifinal game 49-34 and then played Brentwood Academy in the finals. The championship game was all MBA. The Big Red basketball team played its best game of the year and increased its lead every quarter. Drew



*The Microbe A team celebrates a terrific win with the crowd. The Junior School showed up in big numbers to support the team.*

Weikert hit a momentum-building four-point play in the second quarter, and MBA had a five-point lead at halftime. MBA had lots of confidence going into the second half and felt the intensity from the great crowd that was massive and loud. Stellar defense from the Big Red's zone, assists, and buckets helped MBA beat Brentwood Academy 46-27

in the HVAC finals. MBA's phenomenal season and hard work ended in the perfect way, and the 16-2 MBA Junior School basketball team finished with the school's first HVAC championship in at least ten years.



**THIS PICTURE CAN  
ONLY MEAN ONE  
THING: IT IS  
TORNADO SEASON  
AT MBA.  
GREAT JOB, GUYS!**

# BIG RED SPORTS

## B Team Ballers

By Jackson McFadden

This year the MBA Basketball 'B' team had a very successful season with leadership from Coach Todd Moran and experience from eighth graders Parker Bowen, Cal Bryan, Ford Brewer, Jackson McFadden, and Alex McClellan. They had a record of 13-3, losing only to CPA A, St. Henry A, and Smyrna Middle School. The season started out with the Overbrook Classic. The Big Red beat Christ the King in the first



round of the tournament but fell short to a very talented CPA A team in the next round. Our next games came in the Lancaster

Christian Academy Christmas Tournament. MBA lost in the first round to Smyrna Middle School, but we defeated Sycamore Middle School in the following game. That concluded 2013 for the Big Red. MBA kicked off 2014 with a huge win against rival Brentwood Academy by eleven. The Big Red then took on BGA and Ensworth, defeating both of these squads handily. Ross Johnson had 14 points and Luke Bernatavitz had 8 points in the Ensworth game. MBA then



*The 2013 - 2014 Microbe B Basketball Team*

played BA again. MBA's A or B team hadn't beaten BA two times in the same season in more than six years. The Big Red played BA five times with five different teams that day. Of the five teams, the B team was the only team to beat BA that day. Jackson Hannah came up strong for the Big Red with 13 points. MBA played CPA and Sycamore for their

next two games and won easily. A tough game came next against St. Henry A. The Big Red fought hard but fell short. MBA's B-team closed out the season with four straight wins over CPA, Ensworth, FRA, and BGA. Overall, the season was a great success.

### CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS: WIN MONEY!

#### Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest

Who: 7th and 8th graders

What: Short story composed during the current school year.

Length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced

Prize: The best short story wins \$150!

Due: Wed., April 9th

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

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#### The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest

##### Categories: Poetry and Fiction

Prizes in both categories: 1st \$50

2nd \$35

3rd \$10

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

Junior School Entries Due by Wed., April 9th.



# BIG RED SPORTS

## Microbe C: Together

By Jack Rankin

The MBA basketball Microbe C team had an extremely successful season. This success was not limited to the court only, though. Although we had a sensational on-court season with vast improvements by each individual player, our off-court bonding and enjoyment might have been the highlight of the season. From putting players through bus windows, to those “so close moments,” or to the talkative yet enjoyable study halls, our team thrived in the pleasure of being with each other. These moments off-court also contributed to our on-court success. Our problem-solving mindset, such as sending players through windows when the bus is locked, allowed us to excel above others in clutch situations when games would come down to the



*2013-2014 Microbe C Basketball Team*

closing minutes (or those “so close moments” to which we had become accustomed). Also, our instinctively talkative behavior allowed for vital communication on the court, which is key to success in any sport. Finally, enjoyment off-court builds chemistry and better playing as a team instead of as 5 guys all out to score. Chemistry is an intangible in all successful

basketball teams through a sense of trust in each other. Coach Krzyzewski (Duke Basketball and U.S.A. national team head coach) states it perfectly, “A basketball team is like the five fingers on your hand. If you can get them all together, you have a fist. That’s how I want you to play.” That’s how we played this season, together.

## Microbe Wrestling

By Doug Gaw

After the HVAC tournaments, the wrestlers had a big tournament at Baylor and then a big match at home against JP2.

Then when the Big Red traveled to Baylor, they had very tough competition with wrestlers from out



*2013-2014 Microbe Wrestling Team*

of state. The wrestlers wrestled hard and came out with satisfying scores. The next match was JP2, a very

important match for the Big Red. The competition was very tough, and the Big Red wrestled very hard, but came short of the victory.

In conclusion, the wrestlers had a very successful season, and for many wrestlers this season was their first time ever wrestling competitively. The improvement of the wrestlers over the course of the season was very

impressive, and the future is looking bright for the Big Red wrestling program.

# THE BACK PAGE



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